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~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

Argentina

SUBJECT

Shortage of Cotton Seed Oil/Poor
Prospects for Cotton Crop

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PLACE ACQUIRED (By source)

DATE ACQUIRED (By source)

30 Apr 55
and earlierDATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which,
events or conditions described in report existed)

30 Apr 55

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. "In Argentina we once had a thriving cotton oil industry and produced enough for ourselves and had left over a big surplus for export. Now we have just had to buy 20 thousand tons of cotton seed oil from the US for domestic consumption, and before the end of 1955, we will probably have to buy 25/30 thousand tons more. Government intervention in agricultural production has certainly worked havoc with us. From a domestic production of about 220 thousand tons of edible oil, we are down to about 75 thousand tons annually.
2. "Our only chance of getting a decent crop this year is a rapid improvement in weather. For over a month we have had an excess of rain. The crop is very late and early frosts would surely hit us hard. In any case, we will produce considerably less cotton this year [1955] than was produced in 1954. Meanwhile, consumption is increasing again so it seems unlikely we will have anything for export unless the government permits the exportation of very low grades and the import of better ones."

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